

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1-3 and 6 are amended and claims 9 and 10 are added. Reconsideration of the present application based on the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that claim 2 contains allowable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the features of the base claim.

I. The Specification Satisfies All Formal Requirements

The Office Action objects to the Abstract of Disclosure because of informalities recited in the specification. The Abstract has been amended to eliminate legal phraseology. Thus, "comprises" has been replaced with "includes". Furthermore, the Office Action requested that the Abstract include a statement describing the claimed method of using the mold. Accordingly, the Abstract has been amended to include a statement describing the claimed method of using the mold. The Abstract was also amended so as not to exceed 150 words. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to the Abstract is respectfully requested.

II. The Claims Satisfy All Formal Requirements

Claims 3 and 6 are amended to recite a method of making a plastics material piece, comprising closing the mold by bringing the first peripheral zone into contact with the second peripheral zone such that the sheet is not pinched in the joint face. Accordingly, amended claims 3 and 6 recite the essential structural cooperative relationships of elements. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that claims 3 and 6 are in condition for allowance. Furthermore, claims 4-5 and 7-8, which depend from claims 3 and 6, respectively, are likewise in condition for allowance. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112 is respectfully requested.

III. Claims Define Allowable Subject Matter

The Office Action rejects claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,993,719 to Abe. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As discussed above, the Office Action indicates that claim 2 contains allowable subject matter. Accordingly, claims 1 and 6 have been amended to incorporate the holding rod feature, identified in original claim 2.

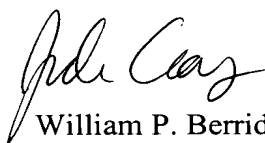
The applied art fails to disclose a peripheral block having at least one holding rod, as claimed in claims 1 and 6. Thus, for at least this reason, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1 and 6 are distinguishable over the applied art. Furthermore, claims 2 and 7-10, which depend from claims 1 and 6, respectively, are likewise distinguishable over the applied art for at least the reasons discussed above as well as for the additional features they recite. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102 is respectfully requested.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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WPB:JLC/dap

Attachment:

Petition for One-month Extension of Time
Abstract of Disclosure

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